

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 30-34 and 36-51 are pending. Claims 17 and 30 have been amended. Claims 36-51 have been added. Support for the claim changes and the added claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 17 and 30 are in independent form.

Independent Claims 17 and 30 were indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter. In the previous Amendment, filed on August 10, 2004, these claims were rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. Although these claims have been further amended herein, they are believed to be still allowable, for at least the reasons stated by the Examiner in that Office Action.

Added Claims 36-51 correspond to dependent Claims 12-16, 18-21, 23, 25-29 and 35, respectively, which were canceled in the Amendment filed on August 10, 2004. Specifically, the added claims are identical to the canceled claims, respectively, except that the claim dependencies have been amended as necessary, since the original base claims have been canceled and the claim numbers have been changed.

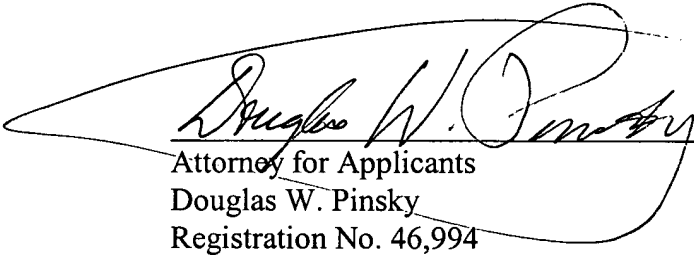
Since each of Claims 36-51 depends from independent Claim 17 or 30, these dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as pertain to their base claims.

It is noted that cancelled Claims 12, 14-16 and 18-21 had been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. However, Applicants submit that independent Claims 17 and 30 are generic to the species to which the withdrawn claims were directed. In that regard, it is noted that Claims 9 and 11 were deemed generic in the Election requirement issued on June 23, 2003.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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